

player that demonstrates the humanitarian spirit embodied by Roberto Clemente.

I am happy to honor Roberto Clemente, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his achievements on and off the baseball field.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SONIA SOTOMAYOR

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the achievements of the first Latina Supreme Court Justice, Sonia Sotomayor.

Justice Sotomayor graduated *summa cum laude* from Princeton University in 1976. While she was at Princeton she received the Pyne Prize, the highest academic award given to an undergraduate at the University. She continued on to Yale Law School where she was the editor of the Yale Law Journal. Sotomayor graduated from Yale Law School in 1979 and passed the bar in 1980. She immediately began working as the Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan.

In 1984, Sotomayor entered private practice, making partner in 1988 at a firm that specialized in intellectual property litigation. While working at the firm she also served on the board of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, the New York City Campaign Finance Board, and the State of New York Mortgage Agency.

Her pro bono work at the agencies caught the attention of New York Senator Moynihan who recommended her for a seat on the New York district court. In 1992, President George H.W. Bush nominated her for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and she was unanimously confirmed by the Senate. In June of 1997, President Clinton nominated Sotomayor for a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and she was confirmed to that seat in 1998. While serving in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, Sotomayor began teaching as an adjunct professor of law at New York University and Columbia Law School, while also serving on the Board of Trustees for Princeton University.

On May 26, 2009, President Obama nominated Sonia Sotomayor for appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. Her confirmation by the Senate in August of 2009 made Sonia Sotomayor the first Latina Supreme Court Justice.

As our country continues to become more diverse, Justice Sotomayor serves as a powerful role model for women and Latinos in the U.S. I am happy to honor Sonia Sotomayor, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her many outstanding achievements.

HONORING THE HISTORIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF JUAN PONCE DE LEON

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize the extraordinary life of Juan Ponce de Leon, Spanish explorer, first Governor of Puerto Rico and discoverer of the great state of Florida.

Ponce de Leon grew up in a small provincial town in Spain. Seeking adventure, he became a member of Christopher Columbus' second voyage to the New World. During that expedition, Ponce de Leon rose quickly in prominence and was soon commissioned by the Spanish King as the First Governor of the newly discovered Puerto Rico. As Governor, he helped to nurture the new and growing island that is now home to so many hard-working Americans.

The adventurous spirit of Ponce de Leon did not die with his appointment as Governor to

Puerto Rico. In 1513 he set out on what was to be his most important journey. Traveling with a crew of 200, Ponce de Leon arrived at and named Florida on April 2, 1513. As he continued his journey, Ponce de Leon became the first European to have extensive contact and knowledge of the Floridian peninsula and discovered many of the sights and wonders that Floridians treasure to this day. The discoveries and numerous accomplishments of Ponce de Leon laid the foundation for both my great state of Florida as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

I am pleased to honor Juan Ponce de Leon, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for his historic contributions to the state of Florida.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RITA MORENO

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the inspiring career and numerous accomplishments of Rita Moreno.

Rita Moreno has broken new ground for Latinos in the field of entertainment throughout her career. In 1961, she became the first Hispanic actress to win the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her role in the movie *West Side Story*. Ms. Moreno is also one of only eleven entertainers in Hollywood to have received all four major entertainment honors: Emmy, Oscar, Tony and Grammy awards.

In addition to film, stage, television and concert commitments, Ms. Moreno fills her spare time by lecturing to various organizations and university audiences on such topics as *The Value of Diversity to our Culture*, *The Power of Language*, and *A History of the Arts in Film, TV and Theatre*. She is also involved with a number of civic and charitable organizations.

Ms. Moreno has served on The National Endowment for the Arts and as a Commissioner on The President's Commission on White House Fellowships. She has also served as a member of The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities.

In June 2004, Ms. Moreno was awarded The Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George W. Bush. In 2007, Ms. Moreno was inducted into the California Hall of Fame by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. In 2010, she was awarded The National Medal of Arts by President Obama, as well as the Here I Stand Award for activism in the arts, and the Hispanic Organization of Latin Actresses (HOLA) Lifetime Achievement Award.

I am happy to honor Rita Moreno, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her numerous contributions to the performing arts.

IN RECOGNITION OF MISS AUBURN TARA JONES

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to honor a special young lady in my district, Tara Jones, who is serving as Miss Auburn at Auburn University.

Miss Jones grew up in Kennesaw, Georgia and was crowned as Miss Auburn in February 2013. She ran her campaign on a platform for clean water for third-world nations and was elected to serve in this position by the student body. Tara also had fun with her campaign by doing the "Harlem Shake" to help spread her message. Jones is in her senior year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Tara Jones being named Miss Auburn. Her dedication to those less fortunate should be an example to us all, and I am honored today to help pay recognition to it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on October 8, 2013, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 531 and 532. I was organizing voters on immigration reform. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on both.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD G. "IKE" MCLEESE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tremendous leader in South Carolina's capital city as he prepares to step down as president and CEO of the Greater Columbia Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. Donald G. "Ike" McLeese has led the Columbia Chamber for 19 years, and has done a remarkable job encouraging cooperation among business, civic, and governmental leaders. His service is greatly appreciated and will be sorely missed.

Ike McLeese is a native of Anderson, South Carolina and earned an associate's degree from Anderson University in 1964 and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of South Carolina in 1967.

He began his career in the political arena working on the staff of the venerable U.S. Senator Fritz Hollings. I got to know Ike when we were both young men working for South Carolina Governor John West in the early 1970s. He was the governor's Commissioner of Narcotics and Controlled Substances, and was one of the youngest commissioners in the State's history, and I was the first African American to serve as an aide to a sitting South Carolina governor. We were idealists hoping to make our mark on the world, and I am pleased to say that Ike did just that.

As a government insider, his knowledge was in demand. After the West administration ended he served as vice president for Marketing and Government Relations for the architectural and engineering firm LBC&W. Ike then worked for two Columbia public relations firms: Cook & Ruef, Inc. and Newman Saylor & Gregory, and ran political campaigns locally and around the country.

In September 1994, he was tapped to lead the Greater Columbia Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. At the time, the chamber was \$3.2 million in debt. He turned the organization around and made it a vital part of the capital city's power structure.

Ike played a key role in protecting Fort Jackson, McEntire Air National Guard Base and Shaw Air Force Base from the base realignment taking place in Congress, and instead helped those bases grow as other military installations were closing. He cites those

successes as his proudest professional accomplishments.

He has shared his expertise as a lecturer at the University of South Carolina's College of Journalism and Mass Communications and at the Strom Thurmond Institute of Government at Clemson University. He is also a recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, from two different governors, which is the highest civilian honor that can be awarded by the State of South Carolina.

Ike is married to the lovely Sue Smith Curran. They have a blended family of five children and four grandchildren. Having spent his entire career in Columbia, he is also a die-hard Southeastern Conference (SEC) sports fan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary contributions of Ike McLeese. I, like so many others in the greater Columbia, South Carolina area, are proud to call him a friend. He has dedicated his career to serving this community and our state's capital is a much better place because of his service. I wish him well as he steps down from the chamber's helm, but know that his pride and passion of and for South Carolina and Columbia will allow him to continue being a powerful force in Columbia.

#### EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE RELATING TO CROP INSURANCE

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 11, 2013*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this Sense of the House that the Durbin-Coburn amendment on crop insurance should be included in a farm bill conference report. This measure limits crop insurance premium subsidies for the wealthiest producers, saving more than \$900 million over ten years. The bipartisan amendment was adopted in the Senate by a 59–33 vote, and enjoys bipartisan House support as well. As we look to trim spending in all areas of the budget, limiting taxpayer handouts to farmers making over \$750,000 is a sensible place to start. Currently there are no limits to crop insurance premium subsidies or payments. This proposal doesn't eliminate assistance for those well-off producers, but simply limits it. In fact, I supported an amendment last June—offered by my colleague Congressman RON KIND—which would have shrunk taxpayer subsidies for crop insurance even further than the measure being considered today. I look forward to working with other Members of the House, and our colleagues in the Senate, to reform the nation's agriculture safety net in a way that provides security to our farmers while reducing the deficit.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 327, EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD VOTE AGAINST CHINA REGAINING UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (UNHRC) MEMBERSHIP AND ENCOURAGE OTHER MEMBERS TO VOTE AGAINST ITS ELECTION, AND ENCOURAGE ANOTHER MEMBER TO STAND FOR ELECTION AS AN ALTERNATE CANDIDATE FROM THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

**HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2013*

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few remarks regarding ongoing human rights and religious freedom abuses in China, and my related resolution, House Resolution 327.

China's suppression of its people's rights is an atrocious affair. With the recent change in leadership, some had held hope that there would be progress, but it seems that the new premier, Xi Jinping, has continued to take things in the other direction—suppression of religious and ethnic minorities is getting worse, the right to free speech is being eroded, and more people are being subjected to harsh treatment by their government.

China's claim that economic modernization would lead to increased protection of civil liberties has not proven true. Economic advances seem to come at the cost of those who are most vulnerable. Rather than securing liberty for its people, China has continued to vastly fund programs that serve to monitor and harass civilians.

There are many people who have been fighting to obtain for China the level of freedom we enjoy in the United States and other countries around the world. These are people who I believe many Americans identify with, because we can empathize with those who are beaten down in noble, selfless struggles for dignity and liberty.

Wang Bingzhang struggled to find a path towards freedom in China—a burden that I'm sure was overwhelming at times. His advocacy and his message ultimately cost him what he was fighting for—freedom. Dr. Wang was abducted in 2002, along with his colleagues, in Vietnam and taken back to China, where he faced a secret trial. In a one day trial, in which no evidence or witnesses were presented, Dr. Wang was sentenced to life imprisonment in solitary confinement on charges of espionage and terrorism. His physical and mental health has deteriorated to the point where continued imprisonment is inhumane. This case has begun to attract more international recognition.

Li Huanjun, whom I had the pleasure of meeting, was arrested on July 12, 2013, on "suspicion of gathering a crowd to disturb social order." Ms. Li is a housing rights activist who advocates against the forced evictions that are occurring in China. She lost her home in just this manner as community leaders decided to sell her home to developers without consulting her. Her arrest is worrying, because many of the people who are arrested for pro-

testing this kind of state action are subject to torture, beatings, and harsh sentences for alleged crimes. She is a mother whose fate is yet to be seen.

Though the previous two activists are not mentioned in the legislation, they are both activists for whom I have advocated. The specific cases and people mentioned in the legislation are equally important. The persecution of individuals and entire groups of people in China is staggering, and much of this abuse is covered in H. Res. 327.

Uyghurs in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region are facing increased pressure and persecution from Beijing. Hundreds of people have also been arrested in Xinjiang for spreading "online rumors," and for expressing dissatisfaction with the Chinese government. Chinese authorities claim that they grant wide-ranging freedoms to people in this region, but religious persecution, suppression of dissent, and monitoring and harassment prove otherwise.

Mongolians continue to face harsh government oppression, as well. An example is Mr. Hada, who served a 15 year prison sentence for "subversion," who continues to face detention after his release from prison, and whose wife and son have recently "disappeared". Dissidents are not the only ones who face persecution—their families are often targeted by authorities, as well. Inner Mongolia continues to struggle to keep a grasp on their culture and language while Beijing attempts to erode it. As a result of Chinese expansion into Inner Mongolia, the land and ecosystem is deteriorating—the Mongolian culture and way of life is in danger of deteriorating with it.

The oppression of Tibetans has caused concern around the world. In acts of desperation, many Tibetan monks have self-immolated. They want greater religious freedom, and the return from exile of Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. But, Beijing continues to maintain strict control over the Tibetan Autonomous Region, even going as far as maintaining police presence in monasteries. Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, who was sentenced to death in 2002, along with his assistant who was almost immediately executed, but had his sentence commuted to life imprisonment after human rights groups and experts claimed he did not receive a fair trial and that he faced harsh treatment in detention.

Falun Gong practitioners have also faced serious persecution from Chinese authorities. China's efforts to eradicate this religion can be particularly severe. Long imprisonment, torture, and inhumane treatment of practitioners can often lead to death. The adherence to a belief system in China, like Falun Gong, is often a dangerous attribute. Many Falun Gong practitioners are often subject to the China's "Reeducation Through Labor" program, black prisons, and arbitrary detention. Hundreds of thousands of people are sentenced to serve time in these "Reeducation Through Labor" prisons.

The list of human rights abuses, violations, and religious and ethnic persecution is almost innumerable. During China's previous membership on the Council, they greatly expanded their "Weiwen" program, used to monitor and harass civilians. This program is currently being funded at higher levels than their national defense budget. Many of the most famous cases of violations occurred while China sat as a member on the Council. Liu Xiaobo